

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-16 (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A shaped knit, the shaped knit comprising a plurality of discrete deformation regions distributed over the knit, whereby the density of deformation regions in an area of the knit determines the degree of shaping of the knit in that area,

wherein each of said deformation regions includes a widening loop splitting a wale into a pair of wales, wherein each of said deformation regions also includes a narrowing loop which recombines the pair of wales, and wherein there is a fully knitted wale between adjacent deformation regions.

18. (Previously Presented) A shaped knit in accordance with claim 17, wherein each deformation region has a width no greater than ten loops.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) A shaped knit according to claim 17, wherein each deformation region includes a split loop or a recombined loop.

21-25 (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) A shaped knit ~~according to claim 22,~~
produced by the steps of:

(a) knitting loops; and

(b) knitting widening or narrowing loops at a plurality of discrete deformation regions distributed over the knit, the density of the deformation regions determining the degree of shaping of the knit,

wherein said step b (b) comprises the sub-steps of:

~~b1-~~ (b1) knitting widening loops in first and second wales thereby splitting the first and second wales into, respectively, a first pair of wales and a second pair of wales; and

~~b2-~~ (b2) recombining the first pair of wales and recombining the second pair of wales, and wherein the knit includes a fully knitted wale between the first pair of wales and the second pair of wales.

27. (Currently Amended) A shaped knit ~~according to claim 22,~~
produced by the steps of:

(a) knitting loops; and

(b) knitting widening or narrowing loops at a plurality of discrete deformation regions distributed over the knit, the density of the deformation regions determining the degree of shaping of the knit,

wherein said shaped knit is formed by employing twin needles and selecting a first number of active needles for each twin needle employed to knit loops in step a (a) and a second number of active needles for each twin needle employed to knit widening or narrowing loops in step ~~b~~, (b), and wherein the first number is different from the second number.

28. (Currently Amended) A shaped knit ~~according to claim 22,~~
produced by the steps of:

(a) knitting loops; and

(b) knitting widening or narrowing loops at a plurality of discrete deformation regions distributed over the knit, the density of the deformation regions determining the degree of shaping of the knit,

wherein said shaped knit is formed by employing a flat knitting machine with twin needles, wherein both needles of the twin needle are used for knitting the loops of step ~~a~~ (a) and only one needle of the twin needle is used for knitting the widening or narrowing loops of step ~~b~~ (b).

29. (Currently Amended) A shaped knit having a multiplicity of courses, the shaped knit produced by a knitting machine having a plurality of needles each of which can be deactivated and reactivated, said shaped knit produced by the steps of:

~~a-~~ (a) knitting a first portion with all the needles in the active state,

~~b-~~ (b) knitting a second portion with selected needles in the inactive state over at least one course, and

~~c-~~ (c) knitting a third portion with all the needles in the active state,

and wherein knitting of the second portion of the knit includes deactivating the selected needles and subsequently reactivating the selected needles and wherein deactivating and reactivating of the

selected needles in the second portion of the knit is effected at a plurality of points that are distributed over the second portion of the knit and are substantially equispaced with respect to the courses of the knit.

30. (Currently Amended) A shaped knit in accordance with claim 29, wherein step ~~b~~ (b) comprises knitting a second portion with selected needles in the inactive state over up to thirty courses.

31. (Currently Amended) A shaped knit in accordance with claim 29, wherein step ~~b~~ (b) comprises knitting a second portion by repeatedly ~~deactivated~~ deactivating and subsequently ~~reactivated~~ reactivating selected needles and wherein in each repetition the selected needles remain inactive over from one to thirty courses.

32. (Previously Presented) A shaped knit in accordance with claim 31, wherein on successive repetitions, the number of selected needles that remain inactive varies.

33. (Previously Presented) A shaped knit having a multiplicity of courses, the shaped knit comprising:

- a first portion each course of which is fully spanned by wales,
- a second portion having a first plurality of partial courses each of which is partially spanned by wales, and
- a third portion each course of which is fully spanned by wales,

and wherein said plurality of partial courses of said second portion are distributed over the second portion of the knit and are substantially equispaced with respect to the courses of the knit.

34. (Previously Presented) A shaped knit in accordance with claim 33, wherein said first plurality of partial courses includes a plurality of contiguous courses each of which is partially spanned by wales.

35. (Previously Presented) A shaped knit in accordance with claim 33, wherein the second portion further has a second plurality of courses each of which is fully spanned by wales, wherein said second

plurality of courses is interspersed with courses of said first plurality of partial courses.

36. (Previously Presented) A shaped knit in accordance with claim 35, wherein courses of said first plurality of partial courses are distributed over said second portion in groups of partial courses, wherein said groups of partial courses are alternated with groups of courses of said second plurality, and wherein each group of partial courses contains between one and thirty partial courses.

37. (Previously Presented) A shaped knit in accordance with claim 36, wherein extent to which wales span each partial course of each group of partial courses varies between successive groups of partial courses.

38. (Previously Presented) A shaped knit in accordance with claim 37, wherein said groups of partial courses comprise at least four successive groups of partial courses interspersed with courses of said second plurality and wherein the extent to which wales span a first one and a third one of said at least four successive groups of partial courses is less than extent to which wales span a second one and a fourth one of said at least four successive groups of partial courses.

39. (Previously Presented) A shaped knit in accordance with claim 17, wherein the deformation regions are statistically distributed over the knit.

40. (Previously Presented) A shaped knit in accordance with claim 17, wherein adjacent deformation regions are irregularly spaced apart.

41-42 (Cancelled)